

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13 /094 W

-----015886 162350Z /75

P R 162310Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9177

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINS PINT ELAB SHUM PE

SUBJ: POLITICAL AMNESTY

REF: (A) LIMA 1464, (B) LIMA 1669

1. THE GOP MARCH 15 PUBLISHED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE REMOVING PROHIBITIONS ON THE RETURN OF POLITICAL EXILES. THE STATEMENT LINKED THIS ACTION TO ITS PLAN TUPAC AMARU AND THE NEED TO CONDUCT THE JUNE 4 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN AN OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC CLIMATE. THE "AMNESTY" APPARENTLY ENCOMPASSES ALL PERUVIANS IN EXILE (AN ESTIMATED 20 PERSONS) THE MOST PROMINENT OF WHOM IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARTIDO SOCIALISTA REVOLUCIONARIO (PSR), RETIRED GENERAL LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA WHO CURRENTLY RESIDES IN MEXICO.

2. MINISTER OF INTERIOR CISNEROS WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THE GOP AMNESTY AND OTHER MATTERS IN A MARCH 15 AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE. HE IDENTIFIED THREE GROUPS AS BENEFICIARIES OF THE AMNESTY: FOUR LAWYERS (INCLUDING LABOR ADVISOR RICARDO DIAZ CHAVEZ) AND ONE  
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LABOR LEADER (VICTOR CUADROS OF THE FEDERATION OF MINE AND METALWORKERS) (REF A); HUGO BLANCO AND LUIS ELDREDGE, EXILED FOR DIRECTING A "PARA MILITARY" ORGANIZATION PROMOTING TERRORISM; AND RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING GENERAL LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA, ADMIRAL JORGE DELLEPIANE, GENERAL ARTURO VALDEZ PALACIOS, MAJOR JOSE A. FERNANDEZ SALVATTECI, AND ELOY VILLACREZ RIQUELME (PARA 2, REF A)).

ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, ONLY THESE ELEVEN PEOPLE MENTIONED BY CISNEROS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN EXILED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1975, NINE OTHERS WHO HAD SOUGHT ASYLUM ABROAD ALLEGEDLY COULD HAVE RETURNED WHENEVER THEY WANTED TO.

3. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS, MINISTER CISNEROS ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE PROBLEM OF LABOR AMNESTY WAS COMPLETELY DISTINCT FROM THE POLITICAL EXILE QUESTION ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE LABOR SECTOR (PRESUMABLY CISNEROS WAS REFERRING TO THE CASES OF EXILED MINEWORKER LEADER VICTOR CUADROS AND THE MINEWORKERS' LEGAL ADVISOR, RICARDO DIAZ CHAVEZ PLUS THREE OTHER "LABOR" LAWYERS.). REPORTEDLY LABOR ADVISOR DIAZ CHAVEZ HAS ALREADY RETURNED TO LIMA. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINE AND METALWORKERS FEDERATION, VICTOR CUADROS PAREDO IS ALSO IN PERU.

4. SPOKESMEN FOR SIX POLITICAL PARTIES COVERING THE ENTIRE POLITICAL SPECTRUM WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. THE GOP ACTION SEEMS TO BE WELL RECEIVED BY ALL OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE CIVILIAN SECTOR IN GENERAL.

5. COMMENT: ALL ASPECTS OF THE "AMNESTY" HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN FULLY CLARIFIED, PARTICULARLY WHETHER OR NOT THE CASES OF MAJOR FERNANDEZ AND VILLACREZ MIGHT STILL BE SUBJECT TO PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A MILITARY COURT. HOWEVER, IN GENERAL THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT CORRESPONDS TO EMBASSY'S EARLIER REPORT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GOP CABINET CONSIDERS POLITICAL AMNESTY A NECESSARY ADJUNCT TO A GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESS (REF A). WHILE CISNEROS MAY BE IRRITATED ABOUT SOME OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE AMNESTY, IT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT SEEM THAT THE POLITICAL AMNESTY ISSUE PRODUCED THE SHARP DIVISIONS WITHIN THE CABINET AS HAD THE ARGUMENTS OVER THE MORE COMPLICATED PROBLEM OF LABOR AMNESTY.  
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## Message Attributes

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